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Antivirals

A study in the recent edition of [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#) found that the use of antivirals in the United States has decreased for treatment of hospitalized patients with lab-confirmed flu, especially children.

Related news article: [Study flags drop in antivirals for hospitalized flu patients](#)

Scientists discover influenza A virus's 13th gene

Researchers discovered a new gene in the influenza A virus that may play a role in controlling the body's response to infection, according to a [study in Science](#). The protein of the new gene, called PA-X, is produced when the ribosome skips ahead while reading messenger RNA (mRNA) nucleotide chains. Researchers found that when PA-X was active, mice infected with the virus subsequently recovered, but when it did not work properly, the immune system overreacted and made the infection worse.

Related news articles:

- [Protein May Boost Immune System, Keep Flu Away](#)
- [New flu gene found hiding in plain sight, and affects severity of infections](#)

Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) latest [global flu update](#) the flu season is picking up in temperate Southern Hemisphere countries that collect surveillance information. The influenza A(H3N2) subtype was the most commonly reported virus in Chile, South Africa, and Australia and significant numbers of influenza type B were also reported in South Africa and to a lesser extent, Australia. Very few influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses have been reported in the temperate region.

- [Australia: Time to get the flu vaccine as risk increases](#)
- [Nasty flu season goes viral](#)

- ['Deadly' flu season set to hit Australia hard](#)

Influenza and Pregnancy

The July 9 edition of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* contains the following flu related articles:

- [Effects of influenza on pregnant women and infants](#)
- [Assessing the safety of influenza immunization during pregnancy: the Vaccine Safety Datalink](#)
- [Benefits of influenza vaccination during pregnancy for pregnant women](#)
- [Monitoring seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among pregnant women in the United States](#)
- [Influenza immunization during pregnancy: US regulatory perspective](#)

2009 H1N1 - Safety and Adjuvants

Two new reports in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* focus on the safety of the AS03 adjuvanted H1N1 vaccine. [One study](#) found that the vaccine was safe for babies born to vaccinated pregnant women and that it was linked to a small but significant risk of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) in some patients. Related news articles:

- [Studies examine safety of adjuvanted pandemic vaccine](#)
- [H1N1 Vaccines Linked to Guillain-Barre Syndrome but Not Birth Defects](#)

An additional study in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* found that the AS03 adjuvant increased the immune response to an H1N1 flu vaccine in both young and elderly adults during the 2009 flu pandemic.

Additional Journal Articles:

- [The impact of personal experiences with infection and vaccination on behaviour-incidence dynamics of seasonal influenza](#)
- [Clinical and Demographic Characteristics of Seasonal Influenza in Pediatric Patients with Cancer](#)

Influenza News Articles

- [Study Dispels Concerns About Drive-Thru Flu Clinics](#)
- [Keeping the flu away](#)
- [Flu vaccination for healthcare workers nears](#)
- [Mandatory vaccinations vs. voluntary – not for wimps!](#)

Avian Influenza & Pandemic Preparedness

- [Mexico: 2.5 million birds slaughtered in bird flu outbreak](#)
- [Bird Flu Is Three Steps Away From Possibly Lethal Human Strain](#)

FLU RESOURCES

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MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

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